

EVERY NOTE COUNTS

Pianos for People is a 501(c)(3) organization
inspired by the memory of Alex Townsend.

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Awarded 2017 ARTS INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR
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**PIANOS
FOR
PEOPLE**

ENRICHMENT: FREE SUMMER CAMPS

In the lives of those we serve, there is often a lack of high-quality, engaging summer programming. As a result, many young people don't have a safe place to go while their parents are at work. Ensuring that youth are involved in positive summer activities is important for strength and safety in our community, and a high priority at Pianos for People.

We serve over 150 youth in free summer camps over 6 weeks. We offer Beginner Piano Camps, Enrichment Camps, the Turn Up Your Talent Multi-Disciplinary Camp, and a Digital Music Composition and Production Camp.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY, QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION, ENJOYABLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, AND LONG-TERM IMPACT OF PIANOS FOR PEOPLE:

"Pianos for People has created a joyful and exciting learning environment. The result – motivated students, enthusiastic about music instruction and activities".

"An exceptional quality of instruction...where students are encouraged to learn, but not pushed so hard that they are turned off".

"Pianos for People's creative special events, emphasis on parent involvement and inviting spirit of inclusion have created a strong sense of community among families in the program".

"Pianos for People is about much more than music education. It is about personal growth and character development including confidence building, self-discipline and sense of pride".



COMMUNITY: FREE SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, Pianos for People brings people together from our neighborhood and beyond for events that encompass music education, collaboration, and performance.

Super Theory Saturdays reinforce what the students learn in weekly lessons in a fun and engaging way.

Piano Slams introduce people of all ages to music of different styles, and provide the opportunity to play with, and be mentored by, some of the finest musicians in St. Louis.

Recitals allow students to develop their presentation skills and confidence in a safe and nurturing environment.

The Annual Pianos for People Festival is an enrichment activity for our students for enhancing performance skills and building confidence by playing in front of an adjudicator.



EDUCATION: FREE LESSONS

Music lessons provide an artistic outlet for children for exploration, creativity, and the nurturing of self-esteem. Pianos for People currently has approximately 130 students at our flagship Cherokee Street studios and an additional 30 students enrolled at our Ferguson satellite location.

We offer group and private lessons at both locations and have expanded our offering to include Music Production Workshops, improvisation, adult and pre-school classes, theory workshops, and master-classes for the more advanced students. Many of our students now participate in multiple workshops and lessons.

Our staff are highly qualified, having degrees in music, piano pedagogy, piano performance, and similar majors. They are a diverse and committed staff, and most importantly, empathetic and sensitive to the issues that many of our families face.

To qualify for free lessons, one must demonstrate financial need and a genuine interest and commitment to learn the piano. Many of our families have now applied for, and received, a free piano as part of our Pianos for People Program ensuring better engagement and success.



INSPIRATION: FREE PIANOS

Today, music is often removed from school curricula. At the same time, practicing the piano – which takes time and discipline – is being replaced with gaming, video, social media, and other distractions from the creative arts.

A piano is more than just an instrument – it can be an agent of positive change in a person's life, opening doors to intellectual and emotional growth. It is well-documented that music study improves IQ, verbal memory, literacy, mathematics and visual-spatial processing - all while building personal pride and self-esteem along the way.

We gave away our first piano in December 2012, and recently delivered our 275th free, high-quality, donated piano. We source and deliver approximately 40 quality pianos per year.

Pianos donated through our program have had a positive impact on thousands of people through our recipient families, community groups, churches and underfunded schools.



Pianos for People provides free access to the transformative power of music to those who need it most – children and families with limited resources, and the organizations that serve them. We do this by cultivating inspiration, education, community and enrichment, at no charge to those we serve.

INSPIRATION: Free Pianos

EDUCATION: Free Lessons

COMMUNITY: Free Special Events

ENRICHMENT: Free Summer Piano Camps

We are committed to breaking down the barriers that prevent those from disadvantaged backgrounds from accessing the many and well-documented benefits of playing music. We accomplish this through the piano – the instrument that used to be at the center of the American household, and a positive influence in the home that many families miss today.

Our passion and commitment are backed by a strong organizational and strategic focus. The integrity and success of Pianos for People has been recognized by *The Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis* through their Arts Innovator Award, *People Magazine* has featured Pianos for People on *People.com*, *NBC Sunday Today with Willie Geist* told our story nationwide, and Pianos for People was featured at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. Ongoing coverage in St. Louis media has been very generous and supportive as well.

